

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the herbal chip must actually contain components or fractions from herbs. This amendment was suggested in a telephone conversation with Examiner Gary Jones on 23 December 2002. The suggestion is appreciated. No new matter has been added.

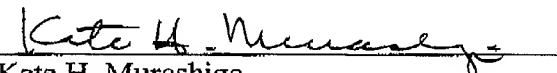
The claims were rejected over a combination of Mao, *et al.*, Chinese patent CN 1314493 as the primary document in combination with various combinations of secondary documents. It is believed that all rejections may be withdrawn as Mao is not citable against the present claims. The present application was filed 5 June 2001 and the publication date of Mao is 26 September 2001. Accordingly, as all rejections depend on the citation of this document, all rejections may be withdrawn. Passage of the pending claims to issue is respectfully requested.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket No. **205032000500**.

Respectfully submitted,

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EXHIBIT A. - VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the Claims:**

1. (Twice amended) An herbal chip comprising a plastic slide, a coating on the plastic slide which binds fractions or components obtained from herbs to said slide in independently allocated microarrays on the coating, wherein said coating comprises a polyfunctional aldehyde coupled to said slide to which is coupled a compound which provides at least one NH_2 group, to which is bound a polyfunctional epoxide compound comprising at least one epoxide for coupling to said amino group(s) and at least one epoxide [for coupling] which is coupled to an herbal fraction or component.